

The VA will do that. We will give them the tools to do that. It will simplify it and cut the redtape.

Veterans Choice funding is a fix to allow the private sector to fill in the gaps where the VA can't provide healthcare. It will help recruit and retain more doctors and nurses, critically important, and it expands the capacity in the VA, which is critically important.

Then there is the "Forever" GI bill which eliminates the 15-year limit. It breaks down educational barriers and helps veterans transition into civilian life.

We have done some good work. We have done some good work for this body. We have done some good work, more importantly, for the veterans, and we need to continue on that line as we continue to address healthcare and we continue to address important issues like tax reform. It is about working together. It is about finding common ground. It is about taking everybody's opinion into context and then drafting up bills.

Chairman ISAKSON and I have done that, and we are going to continue to do that. We have some more tough issues to deal with over the next year and a half, but we are going to work together to make sure we do it and we do it right. With help from the committee and help from the Senate, we could have more successes.

I thank the chairman of the committee and thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we are considering the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Energy. Mr. Brouillette has a long history of distinguished service to our Nation. He is a veteran. He has served in the Department of Energy. He has been the staff director for the House Energy and Commerce Committee. More recently, he has held high-level posts in the private sector—first, as vice president at Ford, currently as senior vice president at USAA.

He has strong experience and thorough knowledge of the Department he has chosen to return to. He understands the work that its thousands of scientists undertake and the importance of maximizing their research efforts, especially in a time of constrained Federal budgets.

He recognizes the importance of our 17 National Labs and the Department's responsibility for environmental management, including the cleanup of Cold War-era legacy sites. As second in command to Secretary Perry, Mr. Brouillette will oversee programs critical to our Nation's cyber security, energy innovation, and scientific discovery.

Based on his hearings before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am confident he is up for the challenge and ready for this role. I

would urge all of my colleagues to support the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy.

Mr. President, I yield all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brouillette nomination?

Mr. RUBIO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Feinstein	Paul
Baldwin	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Peters
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hassan	Rounds
Brown	Hatch	Rubio
Cantwell	Heinrich	Sasse
Capito	Heitkamp	Schumer
Cardin	Isakson	Scott
Carper	Johnson	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cochran	King	Strange
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Donnelly	Murkowski	Wyden
Durbin	Murphy	Young
Enzi	Murray	
Ernst	Nelson	

NAYS—17

Booker	Heller	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Hirono	Schatz
Duckworth	Markey	Van Hollen
Franken	Menendez	Warren
Gillibrand	Merkley	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Burr	Inhofe
Hoeben	McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2430.

All postcloture time is expired.

The motion to proceed is agreed to.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2430) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 10 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I thank Senator MURRAY and the committee for 2 years of work to produce a bipartisan result. This bill funds the Food and Drug Administration and advances the 21st Century Cures legislation that Senator MCCONNELL called the most important bill of the last Congress. Senator MURRAY and I have already spoken to the bill and have thanked everybody involved. Senators have other appointments they would like to keep.

I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Baldwin	Franken	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Booker	Harris	Roberts
Boozman	Hassan	Rounds
Brown	Hatch	Rubio
Cantwell	Heinrich	Sasse
Capito	Heitkamp	Schatz
Cardin	Heller	Schumer
Carper	Hirono	Scott
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Cochran	Kennedy	Stabenow
Collins	King	Strange
Coons	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Corker	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Leahy	Thune
Cortez Masto	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	Markey	Udall
Cruz	McCaskey	Van Hollen
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Wyden
Ernst	Murphy	Young
Feinstein	Murray	
Fischer	Nelson	

NAYS—1

Sanders

NOT VOTING—5

Burr	Inhofe	McCain
Hoeven	Isakson	

The bill (H.R. 2430) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to H.R. 2430, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

RACE FOR CHILDREN ACT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I feel sorry for the Presiding Officer. This is the second time in a week he has had to listen to me talk on the floor.

I thank the Senator from Nebraska for her graciousness in letting me go first.

America, the Senate has passed the bill. We passed the bill. Today, the Senate passed the RACE for Children Act as part of the FDA user fee bill.

The RACE Act represents a breakthrough for kids fighting cancer. Each year, over 15,000 children will be diagnosed with the disease; 2,000 will lose their lives.

Across America, pediatric cancer is the leading cause of death for our children. Previously, companies with new treatments for adults studied their po-

tential benefits for kids. Companies exploring medication for adult diabetes, for example, also researched its potential for use in children. This research is vital because it provides critical information to doctors for treating sick children. Specifically, it helps them ensure that the treatments and dosages they prescribe are safe for young bodies. But there was a gap in the law as it existed before we passed this law.

Drug companies with new, precision medicine for adult cancers did not have to study possible value for pediatric cancers. That meant our kids continued to receive older treatments—some from the 1960s—which often had harmful side effects and consequences that can last a lifetime.

At the same time, breakthrough treatments have become available for adults, with better results and fewer harmful effects. While these treatments have great promise for kids, we were not doing enough to explore that potential.

Over the last 20 years, the Food and Drug Administration has approved 190 new cancer treatments for adults but just 3 new treatments for children. The FDA saw that gap, and they asked us to close it. That is precisely what the RACE for Children Act will do. For the first time in the country's history, it would require drug companies to study the potential of promising adult cancer treatments for children, closing this gap in the law and opening the door to promising new treatments for children in need.

Before this bill, thousands of kids in America lacked access to cutting-edge treatments and precision medicine that could have made the difference in their struggle against cancer.

During my time in the Senate, I have seen the anguish of too many parents who learned not only that their child has cancer but that they have little or no options for treatment. This bill will give them more options. It will give them more hope.

For Delaney from Grand Junction, CO, this bill could have been lifesaving. She battled cancer for over 5 years but passed away a year ago when she was out of treatment options. I wish to dedicate our work on this bill to her and to all kids who are bravely battling cancer day in and day out around the world.

We also should dedicate it to everyone who called and wrote and shared their family stories over the past months. This bill would never have passed without their voices. For people interested in keeping the system the same way, it was the voices of these families—in many instances, people who faced horrible tragedies in their lives—who made this possible. Because they engaged in this process, we passed a bill that will give thousands of kids a better chance to beat cancer and reclaim their lives.

America leads the world when it comes to treating cancer. We pioneer the latest and safest treatments. Every

American should have access to them, especially our kids, whose bright lives have just begun.

I want to recognize and acknowledge all of the pediatric cancer groups that came together to advance this bill, including pediatric advocates, cancer advocates, and hospitals in Colorado and around the country.

I also want to acknowledge, as always, the great leadership provided by Chairman ALEXANDER, Ranking Member MURRAY, and their staff for their work on this and the FDA user fee bill.

Finally, I wish to thank my partner in this work, Senator RUBIO, from Florida, for his leadership and passionate advocacy on behalf of our kids.

This bill is a reminder that, when we drop the political fights, we can focus on fights that truly matter, such as the fight against cancer, the fight for better healthcare in this country, and the fight for our kids and their future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

NORTH KOREA

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the growing threat from North Korea. Last month, the North Koreans conducted two intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, tests. The first came as our Nation celebrated its Independence Day. The second test was conducted last week.

According to a number of reports, the second test demonstrated sufficient range to reach much of the United States. This increasing threat is a concern that I often hear about from Nebraskans.

For years, the United States has assessed North Korea to have an ICBM capability, but it was largely unproven. In his 5½ years in power, Kim Jong Un has conducted more missile tests than his father did during his 17-year reign. Under an aggressive testing program, North Korea has turned a theoretical ICBM capability into an undeniable reality.

Adding to the threat, they have made progress beyond ICBM technology. Over the past year, North Korea has conducted several tests of a submarine-launched ballistic missile. In February, the regime demonstrated a new solid-fueled, road-mobile ballistic missile.

Altogether, these developments reveal a dedicated, sophisticated development program that is relentlessly pursuing weapons designed for no other purpose than to threaten the United States and our allies. The rapid pace of development also indicates an increasingly capable scientific industrial base within North Korea.

Questions still remain about the regime's ability to miniaturize a nuclear warhead, deliver it accurately, and shield it from the stress associated with launch and then reentry. We should expect Kim Jong Un to overcome these obstacles if the status quo remains unchanged.